

SENATE BILL 3217

By Ramsey

AN ACT to name a bridge in Sullivan County in honor of
the late Specialist Fourth Class Jesse Harold
Archer, United States Army.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor the memory of those courageous members of the armed forces who gave their lives in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, no person is more deserving of this honor than the late Specialist Fourth Class Jesse Harold Archer, United States Army, who was killed in combat on March 10, 1969, while serving his country in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Archer followed the patriotic tradition for which Sullivan County and the Volunteer State are renowned by serving with distinction as a rifleman in the 14th Infantry Regiment, 14th Division; and

WHEREAS, the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Archer of Kingsport, Jesse Harold Archer was a 1966 graduate of Sullivan High School who also attended East Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Archer was employed by Tennessee Eastman Company prior enlisting in the United States Army in April 1968; and

WHEREAS, he was deployed to Vietnam in September 1968; prior to his death, he had been awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge for sustained ground contact against the enemy; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Archer served with great courage and gallantry, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed, and for that ultimate sacrifice, he deserves

proper recognition; as a member of the United States Army, he proudly continued an essential tradition of American society: the concept of the citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, like thousands of others of this nation's sons and daughters, Specialist Archer did not shrink from serving in combat, believing in the justice of the cause to protect our national security and liberty and to stop the global threat of Communism; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Archer's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of his family, his fellow soldiers and his country, exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear, stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Sullivan County has petitioned this body to name a certain bridge in the Kingsport community to honor the memory of Specialist Fourth Class Jesse Harold Archer; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly concurs with this excellent proposal; now, therefore,
BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, Bridge No. 82-B-383-0.24, which spans Horse Creek on Rock Springs Drive at Sullivan Gardens Parkway (State Route 93) in Sullivan County, is hereby designated the "Specialist Jesse Harold Archer Memorial Bridge" in recognition of the life of valor and death in the line of duty of Specialist Fourth Class Jesse Harold Archer, United States Army, one of Tennessee's most heroic citizens.

SECTION 2. The department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the bridge described in Section 1 as the "Specialist Jesse Harold Archer Memorial Bridge". The cost of such signage shall be funded in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, § 54-1-133.

SECTION 3. The erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.